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# BULLETIN

OF THE

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Issued in  
JANUARY, MARCH, MAY, JULY, SEPTEMBER AND  
NOVEMBER

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There is no subscription price and the Bulletin is sent only to members of the Association

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### AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President—James I. Wyer, Jr., New York State Library  
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Purd B. Wright, Los Angeles Public Library

Secretary—George B. Utley, 1 Washington St., Chicago  
Treasurer—Carl B. Roden, Chicago Public Library

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Executive offices—1 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

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### A. L. A. COUNCIL

The Mid-winter meeting of the Council was held in Chicago January 6th with twenty-six members in attendance. President Wyer voiced the appreciation of the Council and Association for the continued generosity of the Trustees of the Chicago public library, not only in providing quarters for the A. L. A. Executive office but also rooms in the public library building for the various Mid-winter meetings.

On behalf of the special committee appointed to report on the application of the Special libraries association for affiliation with the A. L. A. the following report was offered by Mr. Bostwick:

The Committee appointed by the President to report on the above petition submits the following:

On general principles the Committee would, as a rule, prefer the formation of a Section of the American library association, rather than of a separate organization, when it is a question of one or the other.

But in this particular instance, the Committee is inclined to think that the formation of the Special libraries association has been justified by results; that the separate organization has been able to accomplish more in its own behalf than it could have done as a section of the American library association.

Further, that its affiliation would tend to attract to the annual conference of the American library association, a number of very desirable members who otherwise might not attend these conferences at all. That such members, bringing with them, as they would, a point of view new to most members of the American library association, could hardly fail to impart fresh interest to the discussion of familiar topics, and to suggest fresh topics worthy of investigation.

On the other hand, since there is necessarily much common ground in the field occupied by the two Associations, the younger of the two ought to profit largely by the experience of members of the senior organization.

Therefore, the Committee recommends granting the petition of the Special libraries association. The Committee believes that the advantages enumerated more than offset the admitted drawback of increasing the complexity of future A. L. A. programs, and of the rather vague scope of the Special libraries association, a vagueness, however, which will doubtless be remedied as time goes on.

C. H. GOULD, Chairman.  
A. E. BOSTWICK.  
C. W. ANDREWS.

The report was duly accepted, and after discussion its further consideration was made a special order of business for 12:00 o'clock.

The next topic for discussion was that regarding net fiction and a report concerning this was made by Carl B. Roden on behalf of the Committee on book-buying. Mr. Roden said in part:

"From replies to letters addressed by the Chairman of this Committee, Mr. Walter L. Brown, of Buffalo, to a number of publishers, the reasons for that move appear to be the familiar ones, namely, the necessity of protecting the retail dealer from indiscriminate price-cutting, and the increase in the cost of materials. The latter reason leads to the conclusion that the manufacturers upon whom the increase in the cost of materials falls, i. e., the publishers, have raised the wholesale price of fiction to the dealer, and this is true in the case of at least two publishers, while it is distinctly denied by others. This may, and probably does, represent a difference in policy. In the meantime the new fiction is being issued at retail prices ranging from \$1.00 and \$1.10 to \$1.35, \$1.40, and even \$1.50, all net, the variations being apparently accounted for by the size and physical characteristics of each book. It seems

probable that \$1.35 net will eventually be the prevailing price, unless a return to the old figure of \$1.50 will follow, without the old discount. At this price of \$1.35 the new novels cost the libraries \$1.21½ net, a very material advance over our former rate which varied downward from \$1.08.

"Now, while we may have no disposition to dispute the contention that the condition of the retailer is in dire need of improvement, and while we are also disposed not to dispute the allegations as to the increase in cost of manufacture, yet it seems to this Committee that the libraries have a just cause for complaint in the very serious reduction in discount allowed them; a reduction which in effect involves a greater increase in cost of fiction to libraries than to the individual purchaser of single copies, for whom the whole machinery of the retail trade has to be maintained. It is palpably inequitable that the libraries, being mainly buyers in bulk, if not in quantities placing them on an equal basis with wholesale purchasers, should be mulcted, in however just a cause, in an amount greater than, or nearly as great as, the patron of the retailers for whose benefit this movement has been inaugurated. If libraries are not wholesale purchasers, they are at least entitled to more consideration than retail purchasers, and the nominal discount of 10 per cent by no means fairly represents the difference. It is doubtful if it represents the true difference in actual selling cost between handling individual sales and the orders of libraries.

"Moreover, I am convinced that this 10 per cent discount was not determined upon as the result of any careful, scientific effort to arrive at a true and fair basis of differentiation, and that if we can get a patient hearing, we have a good chance of bettering that rate, even if we cannot hope to return to the old basis, which, perhaps, we have no right, in view of all the conditions, to expect. And I am further convinced that the booksellers themselves, with whom, rather than with the publishers, the libraries deal, were not consulted in the fixing of the library discount, and are far from certain that 10 per cent represents a fair or practicable margin. I believe that if we could get an expression of opinion from the dealers, we should find that they would agree that 15 per cent or even 16½ per cent would seem to them a more just rate, and one which would be acceptable to them.

"My recommendation, therefore, which I venture to offer as the report of the Committee, since from correspondence I am led to believe that the two other members although not present, agree with these conclusions, is as follows: That the Bookbuying committee be instructed to endeavor to secure an expression of opinion from booksellers doing business with libraries, as to the proper and practicable discount which ought to be allowed to libraries on purchase of new net fiction."

An informal discussion followed Mr. Roden's report and several speakers expressed the opinion that they believed the increased price of net fiction was not benefiting materially the retail bookseller. Mr. Purd B. Wright said he believed that bookdealers were making less money under the \$1.50 net fiction rules than formerly and that the publishers were the ones who were profiting by the new rules regarding net fiction.

An extract from a letter written by Miss Cornelia Marvin regarding fiction in libraries was read as follows:

I wish to send an emphatic protest against the proposition to have the public library discontinue to any extent its purchase of wholesome fiction. We all believe that public libraries are almost as important in offering wholesome recreation as in their educational work, and as each year increases the extent of questionable recreation for both old and young, I believe we ought not to consider lessening the library supply of decent fiction. Anyone who has watched the crowds at moving-picture shows must understand the very general desire to be amused, and I personally believe that most tax payers are just as willing to support libraries for this purpose as for any other, and that by cutting off the supply of fiction, we should cut off numbers of readers who are entitled to library service.

I have a great sympathy with the librarians who wish to buy fiction for less money, and I believe that it should be bought for less, as books should not be used so long and circulated in the filthy condition in which public library fiction is generally found. I think that libraries have not kept pace with general sanitary progress, and that it would be much better to have a large supply of inexpensive editions of fiction to be very frequently renewed, rather than to try to bind so as to make indestructible, the more expensive volumes of new fiction.

If you think this point of view has anything to commend it, I hope you will present it some time during the discussion.

I also wish to say that I should dislike to see anything that is in the nature of a boycott upon publishers of net fiction.

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) CORNELIA MARVIN.

It was moved and voted that the Committee on bookbuying be instructed to secure an expression of opinion from booksellers doing business with libraries, as to the proper and practicable discount which ought to be allowed to libraries on the purchase of new net fiction and to report to the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Wyer then read the following communication in regard to action at the Brussels conference and an international cataloging code:

Bruxelles, le 25 Octobre, 1910.

Monsieur:—Nous avons l'honneur de vous communiquer le vœu du Congrès de Bruxelles 1910 relatif au code international de règles catalographiques.

Nous nous permettons d'attirer votre attention sur le paragraphe de ce vœu qui concerne une entente éventuelle entre les associations de bibliothécaires de même langue, et nous vous serions obligés de nous faire connaître les décisions que votre association pourrait prendre à ce sujet: nous nous tenons à votre disposition pour toute explication complémentaire ou tout échange de vues que vous jugeriez utile.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de nos sentiments les plus distingués.

Pour la Commission belge,  
Le Secrétaire-rapporteur  
(signed) OSCAR GROJEAN.

#### ASSOCIATION DES ARCHIVISTES ET BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES BELGES

##### Commission du Code Alphabétique.

Le Congrès international des Archivistes et Bibliothécaires, tenu à Bruxelles en 1910, émet le vœu:

1 qu'il soit établi un code international de règles pour la rédaction des fiches du catalogue alphabétique;

2 que ces règles soient fixées par langue;

3 que le soin d'élaborer ces règles soit confié aux Associations professionnelles de bibliothécaires de même langue;

4 que le code soit constitué à la suite d'une entente entre les dites associations.

Le Congrès charge l'Association des Archivistes et Bibliothécaires Belges, organisatrice du Congrès de Bruxelles 1910, de servir de lien entre les Associations.

On Mr. Andrews' motion the above communication was referred to the A. L. A. Committee on international relations, with the request that this Committee draft a suitable reply to the Brussels communication, indicating that the A. L. A. welcomes the project and this opportunity to participate in this proposed international cataloging code and notes in the case of English speaking peoples that there seems to be a partial fulfillment of the proposed plan in the recently published Anglo-American Catalog rules. The Secretary of the A. L. A. was instructed to send M. Oscar Grojean a copy of the American edition of the Catalog rules, compiled by the Committees of the American and British library associations, and to notify M. Grojean of the receipt and reference of his communication by the Council.

Mr. Andrews suggests the statement be included in the reply to M. Grojean that "we desire to comply with this proposed international code as much as possible."

The Secretary of the A. L. A. then presented to the Council the by-laws and articles of organization adopted by the Catalog section and the Council expressed approval of the plans for organization proposed by the Catalog section.

A communication was then read by President Wyer from the librarians of agricultural libraries, asking that the Council establish an agricultural librarians' section of the A. L. A. Mr. Wyer stated that the petition complied with the requirements of the A. L. A. Constitution and by-laws and the request was referred to a special committee to be appointed by the President.

Mr. C. W. Andrews made an informal report on behalf of the delegates from the A. L. A. to the Brussels conference. He referred to the account of the Conference which appeared in the library journals and added several details of interest. He presented to the Council an informal request from Mr. Shaw of Liverpool, that American librarians consider meeting, either officially or as individuals, with the British library association at its meeting at Liverpool in 1912.

The Council then took up as a special order of business, the request of the Special libraries association to become an affiliated organization with the American library association. Dr. Herbert Putnam, Mary E. Ahern, G. F. Bowerman and other librarians discussed the work of the Special libraries association in relation to that of the A. L. A. Much interest was expressed in the work which the Association had performed and in its plans for the future but it was the belief of the majority of those present that further information should be before the Council before final action is taken, and it was voted to defer further consideration of the question of affiliation until the next meeting of the Council. The Program committee of the A. L. A. was directed to make provision for meetings of the Special libraries association at the Pasadena conference of the American library association.

A report of the Committee on the affiliation of the A. L. A. with state library associations was then called for and in the absence of the

chairman, Miss Alice S. Tyler, the report was read by S. H. Ranck, as follows:

Your Committee appointed one year ago to investigate and report upon a possible plan for the affiliation of State library associations with the A. L. A. begs leave to present the following:

"A report of progress was made at the A. L. A. Conference at Mackinac, at which time a summary was presented of the replies received from 22 state library associations; the majority of these replies expressed much interest in the consideration of the subject of some possible formal connection between the state and national bodies. Inasmuch as the subject was an entirely new one to most of the associations, it seemed desirable that the investigation should be continued, in order that due consideration might be given to the fundamental question of whether it was really desirable, and also the question of methods of bringing about a closer sympathy and understanding between the state associations and the A. L. A. It was thought that a presentation of the subject by the Secretary of the A. L. A. at the time of his visit to the fall meetings of several of the State library associations might be a practical way to secure definite discussion of the subject, and would be helpful to the Committee in its investigations. The Committee, therefore, asked Secretary Hadley to use the following statement as a basis for presenting the matter at these meetings:

"The Committee appointed by the A. L. A. Council to report on the Relation of the A. L. A. to State library associations, is to continue its investigations further. Responses from the Presidents of 22 library associations showed sufficient interest in the subject to justify the Committee in concluding that some sort of affiliation between the National and State organizations might prove advantageous to both. The questions sent to the Presidents of the State associations previous to the Mackinac meeting were as follows:

"1. Do you believe it would strengthen your State library association, if the A. L. A. required membership in the State association as a condition for membership in the A. L. A. in states where such Associations exist?

"2. Would an official representative from your State association appointed as a state delegate to the A. L. A. Conference bring your Association in closer touch and sympathy with the aims and purposes of the national body?

"3. What action would you think desirable on the part of the A. L. A. to give recognition to such state delegates?

"4. Should there be any financial obligations between the State Associations and the A. L. A.?

"5. Kindly give any suggestions as to how a closer relation may be brought about between the A. L. A. and your State association."

"These questions were formulated in a some-

what suggestive way in order to bring out the views as to how such an affiliation could be brought about. It would seem to the Committee that the answers received, incomplete though they were, justified them in believing that the majority of those to whom the matter was presented, favored some sort of affiliation. The Committee would appreciate a full expression of opinion on this matter at future State association meetings; also an expression of opinion as to methods of affiliation, such as sending delegates to the A. L. A. meetings, and the recognition on the part of the A. L. A. of such delegates. It has seemed to the Committee that the suggestions given in two or three of the replies, regarding a Round Table at the A. L. A. meeting for the discussion of plans and methods for strengthening State library associations, good speakers and topics for state programs, methods of holding institutes and district meetings, might well be discussed at such an A. L. A. Round Table. If the Secretary of the A. L. A. can, at the meetings of the various State library associations which he attends this fall, secure an expression of opinion regarding these points, it will be greatly appreciated by the Committee and will help them in preparing their report, with recommendations, to the A. L. A. Council at its mid-winter meeting."

As a result of this, communications have reached the Committee from the Library associations holding fall meetings in the following states: Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, North Dakota, and Kansas. Some of the associations appointed special Committees to give the matter consideration, and these resolutions, in some cases accompanied by suggestive letters, have been greatly appreciated by the Committee. The reports from these states may be summarized as follows:

MICHIGAN: The matter of affiliation with the A. L. A. was quite fully discussed, a place for it being put on the program for the first session. The whole matter was referred to the Committee of resolutions. The association adopted the resolution of this Committee to the effect "that the Secretary be instructed to notify the Secretary of the A. L. A. that this Association favors the idea of affiliation with the A. L. A. if a practical scheme can be worked out." It was suggested that the most practical thing would be to have the Program committee next year (of the A. L. A.) place on the program a round table meeting for officers of the State library associations, and others interested, to consider some of the problems of the State association and its work as it relates to that of the National organization. It was felt that the subject was so new to many that they did not feel able to act intelligently upon the subject at this time, but that a round table would bring out the problems that would perhaps bring us nearer a working basis for some kind of affiliation. Nearly everyone felt that the financial end would be the most difficult to work out.

(The above is a summary taken from letters of Mr. Ranck.)

**MINNESOTA:** The Minnesota library association adopted the following resolution regarding the matter:

"The Minnesota library association in convention assembled desires to express its interest in the plan of affiliation with the A. L. A. as presented by the Secretary of the A. L. A. on behalf of the special committee on affiliation. This association believes that some method of affiliation would result in mutual benefit to the state associations and the A. L. A. and the Minnesota library association is ready to co-operate with the A. L. A. in carrying out any plan which may be formulated by the committee."

**IOWA:** The Iowa library association adopted the following resolutions presented by a special committee:

"That in their judgment it would be unwise and unfair to the smaller libraries to require membership in the A. L. A. as a condition for membership in a State association.

"Also, unwise to require membership in a State association for membership in the A. L. A., as many people might be interested in the broader problems who are not necessarily connected with local libraries and not workers in the local sense. While membership in both organizations should be encouraged, it should not be made a condition.

"The Committee recommends that the subject of affiliation be considered in the next meetings of both state and national Associations with a view to closer co-operation on the lines outlined by the A. L. A. Committee, that a delegate be sent from each state association to be present at the deliberations of the A. L. A. Council, and to make an official report at the next meeting of the State association, thus giving both bodies the advantages of understanding the aims and work of the other, and tending to strengthen library interests throughout the country."

**ILLINOIS:** The Committee appointed by the Illinois association has considered the matter very carefully by correspondence and has submitted a report based on the questions submitted by this Committee as follows:

"1. Do you believe it would strengthen your State library association if the A. L. A. required membership in the State association as a condition for membership in the A. L. A. in states where such associations exist?

"A. Yes, but it would not immediately strengthen the A. L. A., and might, therefore, be unwise at the present time.

"2. Would an official representative from your State association appointed as a state delegate to the A. L. A. Conference bring your association in closer touch and sympathy with the aims and purposes of the national body?

"A. Yes, such a delegate would not only do this, but would also keep the A. L. A. more

closely in sympathy with library work in his state. The mutual benefits probably would be more definite in the case of strong associations and associations of states near the place of holding the Conference, for the delegates from these associations are likely to be appointed beforehand and prepare for the Conference; weaker associations and associations from states distant from the place of holding the Conference are likely to accredit at the last minute some one of their few members who go to the Conference, and such delegates are not so likely to bring good to either the state associations or the A. L. A. We assume that the traveling expenses of our delegates would not be paid by the A. L. A. and probably not by the State association.

"3. What action would you think desirable on the part of the A. L. A. to give recognition to such state delegates?

"A. The delegate should be asked to make a report to the Conference on the year's progress in library work in his state. He might well be accorded a seat and voice (but no vote) in the meetings of the A. L. A. Council. The list of delegates would, of course, be published in the A. L. A. Bulletin (Handbook, and Conference Proceedings).

"4. Should there be any financial obligations between the State association and the A. L. A.?

"A. Yes, probably annual dues to be paid by the State association; these dues might be uniform for all associations, and amount to, say \$25; or the amount might be based on the number of paid-up members of the state association, say 20c per member. The latter plan is more likely to lead to general affiliation than the former.

"5. Kindly give any suggestions as to how a closer relation may be brought about between the A. L. A. and your State association.

"A. We should like to see a round table meeting of certain officers, for example President, Secretary and Treasurer, or other accredited delegates of state library associations, held at A. L. A. Conferences, to discuss problems connected with the work of the state associations. For example, such a round table meeting might result in arranging such dates for certain state association meetings as to make it more convenient and less expensive to secure an A. L. A. representative or other speaker to make the rounds of these several state meetings, than is the case when each association picks the date of its own meeting without consultation. Preliminary arrangements for joint meetings of two or more state associations might occasionally be made more conveniently at such a round table meeting than now."

P. L. Windsor, Chairman.

**INDIANA.** The Indiana library association through its special committee adopted the following resolutions:

Report of the Committee on relations between the A. L. A. and I. L. A. submitted to

the Indiana library association at its meeting held in South Bend, October 19-21, 1910.

The following answers to the questions sent out by the A. L. A. Council to the State associations, were given by the Committee and accepted by the Association:

Question 1—Answer: No.

Question 2—Answer: Perhaps.

Question 3—Answer: Allow the State association to elect a member of the Council.

Question 4—Answer: No.

Question 5—Answer: Perhaps a round table discussion by active presidents and delegates about state association work.

The Committee also adds the following: "If any other lines of action are taken up looking toward helpful co-operation, the Indiana library association pledges its interest and support."

**NORTH DAKOTA:** At the meeting of the North Dakota library association held in Fargo, September 30th and October 1st the Committee on resolutions gave its report and submitted the following resolution which was adopted by the Association:

"We, the Committee on resolutions having under consideration the plan suggested by the A. L. A. to bring about closer relations between the A. L. A. and state library associations, beg leave to submit the following:

"We approve of any plan which will bring about greater co-operation between the library interests of the country. We commend especially the appointment of a representative from state associations to the A. L. A. who shall be admitted to the meetings of the Council."

(signed) ALICE M. PADDOCK.

R. A. NESTOS.

W. L. STOCKWELL.

Committee.

**KANSAS:** The Kansas library association at its annual meeting at Abilene, included the following in the report of the Resolution committee:

"Resolved, that the Kansas library association wishes to assure the American library association of its earnest co-operation, and that it hopes to send a delegate to the annual meetings of said association whenever possible."

(signed) JULIUS LUCHT.

Some facts are evident:

1st—Practically all are agreed that an official representative from the State association appointed as a state delegate to the A. L. A. annual conference, would identify the State association more closely with the national body, and would naturally lead to a report being made by that representative to the next meeting of the State library association, regarding the A. L. A.

2d — The A. L. A. on its part should in some way give recognition to this state delegate at the annual conference; and it is suggested that this be done by permitting such delegate to attend the A. L. A. Council meetings. Furthermore, a Round table should be provided on the A. L. A. program where reports would be

received from the various states, questions relating to the conduct of state and district meetings and library institutes could be discussed, circuits of State association meetings planned to avoid conflict of dates and arrangements made for the A. L. A. speaker. Such a Round table if provided for in the A. L. A. program next year, would also afford opportunity for the discussion of the question now under consideration by this Committee, as to the desirability of official affiliation and the methods therefor.

As to question four, regarding financial obligations, your Committee would state that no plan has yet taken form in the minds of those who are considering this matter, sufficiently definite to be presented. Formal affiliation of the State association with the A. L. A. would certainly necessitate an annual fee. If the privileges of an A. L. A. speaker at A. L. A. expense should be a part of the plan, the fee should be large enough to justify this expense.

If a flexible amount consisting of a per capita fee from the State association is recommended, the larger and stronger Associations would, with perfect justice, contribute much more to the A. L. A. funds, while receiving no greater benefits. If a fixed annual fee of \$10.00, \$20.00 or \$25.00 be named, regardless of the size of the State association, it would hardly seem equitable. In either case the affiliated State association should be entitled to a speaker sent by the A. L. A., either its President, or a librarian of national reputation, who would come for an address without any further cost to the State association. It would seem that a distinction here might be that such speaker would be available for State associations not affiliated, but at the expense of the State association, whatever the amount might be.

The Committee desires a full discussion by the Council, at this time, in order that they may profit by the suggestions in case definite recommendations from the Committee are to be made.

The following points are suggested for discussion:

1.—Does the Council consider that formal affiliation is desirable? If not, the investigation of the Committee need go no further.

2.—If some formal affiliation is considered desirable does the Council favor providing a Round table of the officers or representatives of State library associations at the next meeting of the A. L. A.?

3.—Does the Council favor the recognition of representatives of the state associations by a seat in the Council, and if so, simply as a courtesy or with a vote?

4.—Would the Council favor a sufficiently large fee for state affiliation, to provide for the expenses of A. L. A. speakers in attendance at state meetings.

The Council voted to continue the Committee and the question of affiliation will be discussed at the next meeting of the A. L. A.